KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Of the 48 blocks offered for bidding under NELP, 20 offshore blocks and 4 onland blocks were earlier-held by ONGC under PEL. These blocks were offered under NELP after ONGC relinquished these areas.

Blocks allotted to ONGC cannot be made available to any other company as long as ONGC holds PEL.

(d) No, Sir. ONGC has a plan to carry out exploration work in all the blocks allotted to it.

(e) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy, a level playing field has been provided for the private as well as public sector companies.

Import of Crude Oil and Petroleum products

1782. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the total imports of-crude oil and petroleum products in 1997-1998 and in 1998-99;

(b) what is the demand of petroleum products projected for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) how much of it is likely to be met through indigenous production and imports; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to export petrol and Naphtha in the next year or two?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The quantity of crude oil and petroleum products imported during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as under:—

Qty. Million tonnes

Item	1997-98	1998-99* (April—December)
Crude Oil	34.494	29.506
Petroleum Products	19.530	14.146

*Provisional

(b) A per IX Five Year Plan (1997-2002) document, the projected demand of Petroleum Products for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are likely to be 93.67 MMT and 99.07 MMT respectively.

(c) As per IX Plan sub-group on refining, the percentage of demand that is expected to be met by indigenous production and imports are given below:—

	1999-2000	2000-2001
Percentage demand to be met by indigenous production	88.7	81.7
Percentage demand likely to be met through imports	11.3	18.3

(d) The export of petrol and Naphtha in the next year or two would inter alia, depend upon the overall demand and supply position in the country and the prevailing market conditions.

Refining Capacity in the Country

1783. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to increase refining capacity in the country during the current year either by public sector private sector or joint sector Refineries;